



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Adopt resolution authorizing the purchase of two - 15 kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears from Trayer Engineering Corporation of San Francisco, in the amount of \$46,171.85 (EUD)

MEETING DATE: August 6, 2003

SUBMITTED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase of two - 15 kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears, as a sole source purchase, from Trayer Engineering Corporation of San Francisco, in the amount of \$46,171.85


BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The two switches recommended for purchase here will be utilized in the commercial areas developing north and south of Kettleman Lane and west of Lower Sacramento Road. These switches are a member of the same family of switches and meet all the same conditions and requirements as the nine switches the City Council approved as a sole source purchase at the meeting of May 21, 2003. The configuration of these switches is unique due to their proposed location. They will be used as a switching point in the main supply lines to the developing areas from existing facilities. However, when the new West Side substation is constructed west of this area the switches will also be a key component for switching operations on supply lines from this station as well as interconnecting switching points between stations. Switching points are critical for the operation of electric systems for load balancing, clearances for work on the system, troubleshooting and timely service restorations.

The specification for this type of equipment requires a switch within the equipment for each switch position that provides for a "visible open" point verifiable through a viewing window. The main switch is a vacuum insulated switch and cannot be visibly verified open. The equipment offered by Trayer Engineering does have this feature. The "visible open" is a safety requirement when work is performed on the system. Being able to obtain and verify such a visible open with a simple switch operation is of great benefit. The alternative involves separating the 600-ampere cable connections requiring considerable amounts of labor and risking cable and terminator damage and contamination resulting in possible future faults. The "visible open" is required regularly during maintenance and construction/expansion work on the system. The ability to obtain the "visible open" with a single switch operation offers significant labor saving, preserves the integrity of the system and minimizes interruptions to our customers.

In addition, the Trayer Engineering product is made of stainless steel resulting in reduced maintenance costs, has over forty years proven experience in the utility industry with 30 years in Lodi for the switch mechanism and is insulated with a biodegradable insulating fluid. Based on the above requirements and the fact that no other manufacturer provides liquid insulated visible open switches, it is recommended that the City Council authorize this purchase as a sole source purchase.

It should be noted that the Department has been using various types of padmount switching equipment from other manufacturers over the years and has replaced all with Trayer Engineering equipment due to failures, deterioration and not meeting current operating requirements.

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Two - 15 kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears (continued)

FUNDING: Available within the Electric Utility Department's 2003-05 Financial Plan and Budget Distribution System Improvement

Funding Approval:


Vicky McAthie, Finance Director


Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY: Hans Hansen, Manager, Engineering and Operations

ANV/HH/lst

c: City Attorney
Finance Director
Purchasing Officer

APPROVED: _____
H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-139

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL AWARDED
THE SOLE-SOURCE BID FOR TWO UNITS OF PADMOUNT
LIQUID INSULATED VACUUM SWITCHGEARS

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WHEREAS, Lodi Municipal Code §3.20.070 authorizes dispensing with bids for purchases of supplies, services, or equipment when it is in the best interest of the City to do so; and

WHEREAS, the 15kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears are utilized throughout the underground distribution system in industrial, commercial, and residential areas to supply branch feeders from the main feeders; and

WHEREAS, the two switches recommended for purchase here will be utilized in the commercial areas developing north and south of Kettleman Lane and west of Lower Sacramento Road; and

WHEREAS, these switches are a member of the same family of switches and meet all the same conditions and requirements as the nine switches the City Council approved as a sole-source purchase at the meeting of May 21, 2003. The configuration of these switches is unique due to their proposed location. They will be used as a switching point in the main supply lines to the developing areas from existing facilities; however, when the new West Side substation is constructed west of this area the switches will also be a key component for switching operations on supply lines from this station as well as interconnecting switching points between stations. Switching points are critical for the operation of electric systems for load balancing, clearances for work on the system, troubleshooting, and timely service restorations; and

WHEREAS, the specification for this type of equipment requires a switch within the equipment for each switch position that provides for a "visible open" point verifiable through a viewing window. The main switch is a vacuum insulated switch and cannot be visibly verified open. The equipment offered by Trayer Engineering does have this feature. The "visible open" is a safety requirement when work is performed on the system. Being able to obtain and verify such a visible open with a simple switch operation is of great benefit. The alternative involves separating the 600-ampere cable connections requiring considerable amounts of labor and risking cable and terminator damage and contamination resulting in possible future faults. The "visible open" is required regularly during maintenance and construction/expansion work on the system. The ability to obtain the "visible open" with a single switch operation offers significant labor saving, preserves the integrity of the system and minimizes interruptions to our customers; and

WHEREAS, the Trayer Engineering product is made of stainless steel resulting in reduced maintenance costs; has over forty years proven experience in the utility industry with 30 years in Lodi for the switch mechanism; and is insulated with a biodegradable insulating fluid. Based on the above requirements and the fact that no other manufacturer provides liquid insulated visible open switches, it is recommended that the City Council authorize this purchase as a sole-source purchase; and

WHEREAS, based on the above information and the fact that the other manufacturer has not changed design since the last bid and that Trayer Engineering Corporation's quotation is less per unit than the unit price of the bid in January 2000, it is recommended that the City Council authorize this purchase as a sole-source purchase; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager recommends the sole-source purchase of two (2) units of 15kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears from Trayer Engineering Corporation, of San Francisco, CA, in the amount of \$46,171.85.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council does hereby approve the sole-source purchase of two (2) units of 15kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears from Trayer Engineering Corporation, of San Francisco, CA, in the amount of \$46,171.85.

Dated: August 6, 2003

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2003-139 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held August 6, 2003, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Beckman, Hansen, Howard, Land, and
Mayor Hitchcock

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None



SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk